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Cavour's great speech with masterly effect—but he is in error in describing the reception of Victor Emmanuel at Paris in the preceding November as “enthusiastic”, though he judges accurately Napoleon III.'s policy at the time. His account of the campaign of 1859 is spirited and of unflagging interest, and his study of the diplomatic struggle which preceded is an exceptional piece of close criticism, of the first importance for students of European foreign policy. He lays bare English self-interest in several of the pro-Italian diplomatic efforts of Russell and Palmerston, but he is wrong in ascribing to them disinterestedness “in a high sense” (II. 128)—instead of jealousy of France—in 1859.

The portrait of Napoleon III. is one of the best drawn in the work, although the features are somewhat brutalized. Yet Mr. Thayer is fair in justifying Napoleon III.'s reasons for the peace of Villafranca and in not approving Cavour's conduct at this crisis. Mr. Thayer shows little respect for crowned heads. Queen Victoria has an “unsubtle, commonplace nature” (I. 364), and the Emperor Francis Joseph is complimented upon having “escaped the blight of imbecility” (II. 95). The chapters on contemporary conditions in the Italian states, aside from Piedmont, are the less satisfactory portions of the biography, being based largely upon secondary authorities, some of which, such as Hippolyte Castille and Charles La Varenne, are distinctly questionable. He treats Mazzini with generally deserved severity, but one wishes that he might have inserted a sketch of Mazzini's earlier services to Italy, for which space might more properly have been found than for the dissertation on the medieval papacy (I. 278 ff.). But Mr. Thayer seems imbued with apostolic zeal to smite the “magnificent impudence” of the papacy at every turn, and his constant, unmeasured raillery in this regard is a defect. He criticizes Garibaldi in unnecessarily harsh terms, but usually with full justice. Unpublished documents in the state archives of Italy will show that Brofferio, champion of Piedmontese democracy, whom Mr. Thayer describes as having “deserved the respect even of his antagonists” (I. 93), was at one time in secret relations with Austria. Other hidden documents will prove that what Mr. Thayer describes as “popular belief” was indeed a fact—namely that “the confessional was one of the channels through which the police got information” (I. 186). Much remains yet to be revealed relative to Risorgimento history, but this biography of Cavour, the best work on modern Italy published in English, must long continue an indispensable source.

H. NELSON GAY.

The History of the British Post Office. By J. C. HEMMEON, Ph.D.
[Harvard Economic Studies, vol. VII.] (Cambridge: Harvard University. 1912. Pp. xi, 261.)

THE arrangement of Mr. Hemmeon's book, which is a study in economic history, is partly chronological, partly topical. The first four chapters trace the development of the British Post-Office from the be-

ginning of the sixteenth century to recent times. Subsequent chapters discuss the travellers' post and post horses, roads and speed, sailing packets and foreign connections, rates and finance, the question of monopoly, the telegraph system as a branch of the postal department, and the Post-Office and the telephone companies.

In comparison with Herbert Joyce's well-known history of the British Post-Office, which extends only to 1836, this new work is a considerable improvement. Though not so readable as Joyce's account, the story is clearly told and the reader is willing to accept it as definitive for early British postal history. The bibliography is sufficient although many would value a critical estimate of all the important works bearing on the subject. The foot-notes are judiciously used, but in some chapters dealing with the later period they show that the author has relied almost exclusively upon government publications and that, too, when dealing with subjects upon which the outside world might wish to be heard.

That it is not a very interesting book is not wholly the fault of the author. It is not easy to describe such a complex institution as the Post-Office in language that is eloquent and readable. It may well be doubted if early British postal history can be made as interesting as the early history of the posts in this country, where the great distances and numerous physical obstacles lend many picturesque features to the transportation of the mails. The dullness is due in part, however, to a somewhat narrow conception of the work, an apparent absence of knowledge of the postal history of other countries, and a failure to understand the difference between essential and unessential details. The pages are sometimes burdened with detailed matter that might well have been omitted.

It is an ungrateful and perhaps useless task to attempt to say how a given book should have been written and what the results ought to be. If the thing desired is a painstaking account of the development and operations of the British Post-Office since its beginning, with relatively little attention to the more important economic aspects of the service at the present time, then the author has succeeded admirably and his work must be pronounced good. It seems, however, to the reviewer that a history of the British Post-Office ought, in these days, to pay less attention to the period before 1837, and deal more fully with modern postal problems. Measured by this standard Mr. Hemmeon's book, in its present substantial form, and in such respectable company as the *Harvard Economic Studies*, ought to be justified by more suggestive conclusions than the author has given us.

It is recognized that the book is a study in economic history and not in economics, but what is the use of economic history unless it grapples sharply with the economic, political, and social problems involved in the subject? A sound historical and economic study of the British Post-Office in the last seventy-five years would be of considerable value to

students of politics, government, and economics. Mr. Hemmeon gives us the early history of the Post-Office with a wealth of detail that speaks well for his thoroughness and industry, but he does not deal with the telegraph, the telephone, the civil service, and other modern problems of the Post-Office in such a way as to make his book of the largest possible service. A student of American postal problems, for example, would not gain a great deal by reading this work.

J. P. BRETZ.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The Stone Age in North America. An Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Implements, Ornaments, Weapons, Utensils, etc., of the Prehistoric Tribes of North America, with more than Three Hundred Full-Page Plates and Four Hundred Figures illustrating over Four Thousand Different Objects. By WARREN K. MOOREHEAD, A.M., Curator of the Department of American Archaeology, Phillips Academy. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1910. Pp. xii, 457; vi, 417.)

It is rather difficult to review these volumes with absolute justice, for the author has, unfortunately, tied up his long and varied experience as an archaeologist in the field with a special theory of the nature and the significance of "prehistoric" remains in North America, a theory which he several times pushes beyond all reasonable limits. On page 7 of volume I. he speaks of the unfortunate "tendency to explain much of prehistoric times through knowledge of tribes whose customs are more or less saturated with white man's influence", and he censures the labors of the investigators represented in the *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico*, recently published by the Bureau of American Ethnology, for having "led many to consider prehistoric life in America as nearly the same as the life of our Indians for the past one or two centuries" (p. 2). He says, again (pp. 4, 6), that the *Jesuit Relations* show "a great gulf between the aborigines of long ago and the Indians of the present", going so far, at times, as to recognize pre-Indian forms of culture—such, e. g., would seem to be "the strangest culture . . . in America . . . that of the cave region of the Ozark Mountains" (II. 361). This "gulf" between the Indians of to-day and the "prehistoric" aborigines he emphasizes further elsewhere by maintaining (*American Anthropologist*, new series, XIII. 494, 1911) that "the bulk of implements and works in this country are not known to existing tribes, or were not known to the tribes of the past two centuries", and that "the earthworks of the Ohio valley cannot be explained by a study of any historic tribes of which we have knowledge, neither can the remarkable objects and altars found in the Scioto valley be so explained".

While he does right in calling attention to the effects of the contact